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RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSG #0465 0661003
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 071003Z MAR 06
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8614
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0087

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000465

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR R/MR, I/PP, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA, PM, INL

STATE FOR INR/R/MR

AMEMBASSY FOR PAO, IO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [OPRC](#) [CI](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - U.S./INDIA CIVILIAN NUCLEAR ACCORD

On March 4, conservative, independent "La Tercera" (circ. 102,000) ran an editorial entitled, "Strategic Rapprochement Between India and the United States." Quote:

"India and the United States signed a 'historic' agreement on Thursday.... India will now be considered an atomic power and will have the advantage that it can develop nuclear weapons without IAEA inspection, will be treated like a major power--which it had sought for decades--and will strengthen its ties with the U.S., a key commercial partner.... Washington will have succeeded in bringing closer an unruly nuclear power and introducing an important degree of control.... But above all, the U.S. has gained an invaluable ally in its competition with China."

KELLY